

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action dated February 24, 2006. Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 4, 12, 14, 18, 27, and 28, canceled claims 11, 17, 31, 32, and 34-37, and added new claims 38-41. Claims 15, 29, 30 and 33 were canceled in the previous Amendment dated May 17, 2006. Accordingly, claims 1-10, 12-14, 16, 18-28 and 38-41 are pending.

Applicant has amended each of independent claims 1, 14 and 27, and drafted new independent claims 38-41, to recite subject matter that the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Applicant has also amended dependent claims 2, 4, 12, 18 and 28 to correct their dependencies in view of the other amendments, to improve their clarity in view of the other amendments, or for other reasons unrelated to patentability.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 11-13, 17-18, 21, 24-26, and 31 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter from claim 11. Consequently, independent claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance.

Applicant has amended independent claim 14 to include the allowable subject matter from claim 17. Consequently, independent claim 14 and all claims dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance.

Applicant has amended independent claim 27 to include the allowable subject matter from claim 31. Consequently, independent claim 27 and all claims dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance.

New claim 38 includes the allowable subject matter of claim 21 as previously presented, including the limitations of independent claim 14 and intervening claims 19 and 20 as previously presented.

New claim 39 includes the allowable subject matter of claim 24 as previously presented, including the limitations of independent claim 14 and intervening claim 19 as previously presented.

New claim 40 includes the allowable subject matter of claim 25 as previously presented, including the limitations of independent claim 14 and intervening claim 19 as previously presented.

New claim 41 includes the allowable subject matter of claim 26 as previously presented, including the limitations of independent claim 14 and intervening claim 19 as previously presented.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 17 and 18 because claim 17 depended from claim 15, which had been canceled. Applicant has canceled claim 17, and amended claim 18 to depend from independent claim 14. Applicant respectfully suggests that the Examiner's objection is therefore moot, and requests that it be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-10, 14, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 27, 28, 32 and 34-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,251,063 to Silverman et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. Silverman et al. fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention, as required by 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and provides no teaching that would have suggested the desirability of modification to include such features.

Nonetheless, in the interest of expediting allowance of the application, Applicant has amended each of independent claims 1, 14 and 27 to include allowable subject matter, as discussed in greater detail above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully suggests that the claim rejections are moot, and requests that they be withdrawn. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the cancelled claims or the claims as previously presented in one or more continuing applications.

New Claims

Applicant has added new independent claims 38-41 to the application. Each of the new claims consists of the subject matter of one of the claims that the Examiner indicated was allowable, as discussed in greater detail above. Accordingly, the new claims add no new matter to the application, and are in condition for immediate allowance.

CONCLUSION

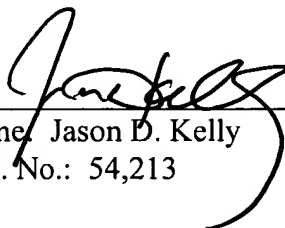
All claims in this application are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 50-1778. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney to discuss this application.

Date:

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